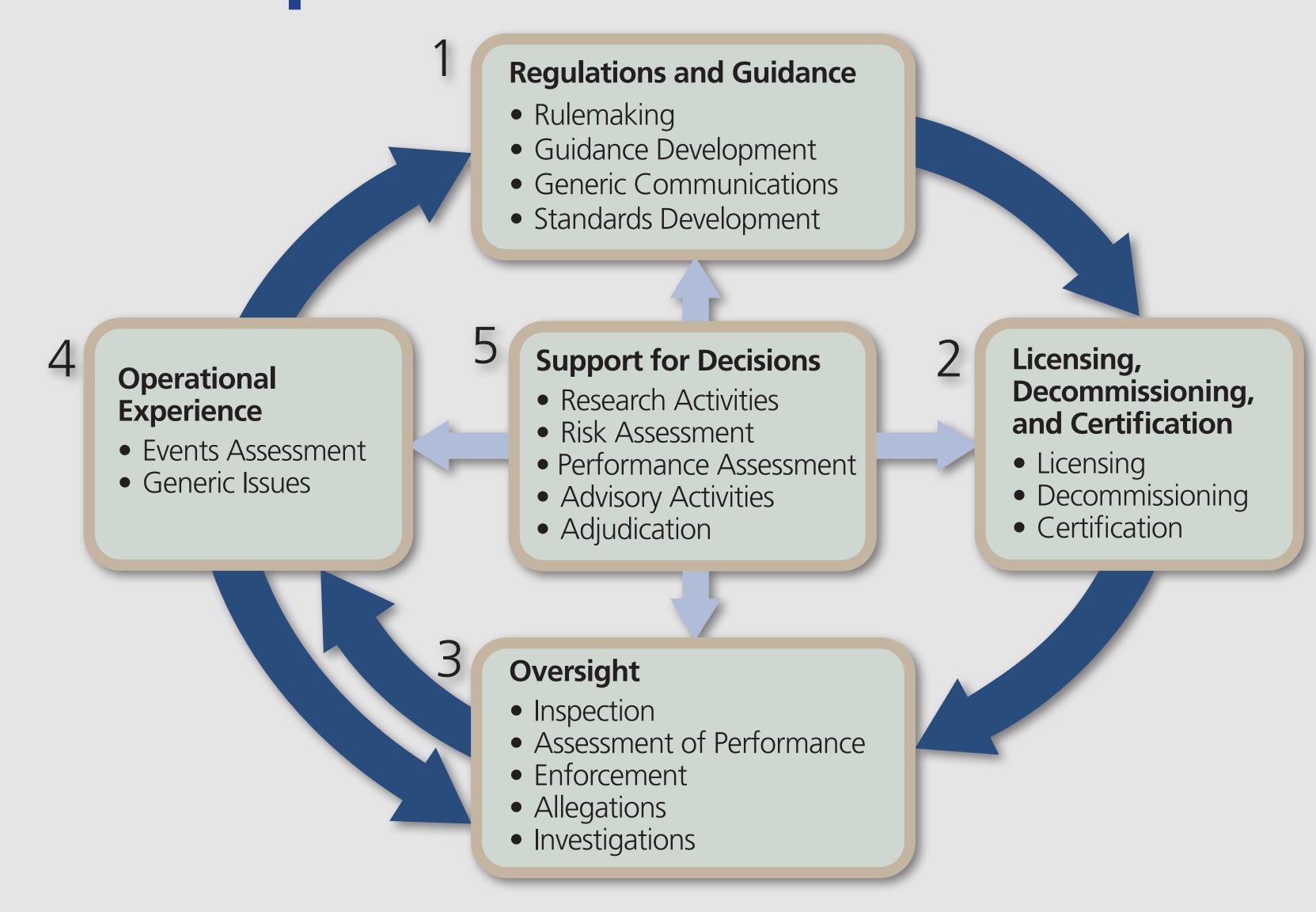


## OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH

# Public Participation with Guidance Development

## Requirements Overview



# NRC Rules and Regulatory Guidance

#### NRC Rules (Code of Federal Regulations)

NRC publishes draft rules for public comment in the Federal Register before they become effective. The public may submit comments online at www.Regulations.gov.

#### Regulatory Guides (RGs)

RGs are implementation guidance that describes acceptable methods for licensees to meet NRC's regulations. NRC publishes draft guides for comment in the Federal Register before they become effective. The public may submit comments online at www.Regulations. gov. Comments received on existing RGs will be considered during the next RG review, typically every 5 years

#### **NUREGs**

NUREGs are NRC staff and contractor reports on unclassified scientific, technical and administrative information dealing with licensing and regulation of nuclear facilities and materials. These publications present information that may be used to support regulatory decisions, guidance for meeting regulations, results of task force investigations of specific topics or incidents, results of NRC or contractor research programs resolution of generic safety issues, analyses of certain regulatory programs, proceedings of conferences and workshops, etc. NUREGs of significant interest are issued for public comment as a draft.

#### Standard Review Plans (SRPs)

SRPs provide guidance to the NRC staff for reviewing a license application to construct or operate a nuclear facility or to possess or use nuclear materials. The SRPs are published as a NUREG, and are usually issued for public comment.

Generic Communications (e.g., BLs, GLs) Generic communications are potential generic issues that are safety significant, require technical review, and possibly require actions by licensees to address. Examples are:

- Bulletins (BLs)—BLs (1) request licensee actions and/or information to address significant issues regarding matters of safety, security, safeguards, or environmental significance that have great urgency,
- Generic Letters (GLs)—GLs (1) request licensee actions and/or information to address issues regarding urgent or routine matters of safety, security, safeguards, or environmental significance, and (2) require a written response.

#### Standard Technical Specifications (STSs)

and (2) require a written response.

STSs provide methods for licensees to verify plant operations using (1) safety limits, limiting safety system settings, and limiting control settings, (2) limiting conditions for operation, (3) surveillance requirements, (4) design features, and (5) administrative controls. These are issued for public comment.

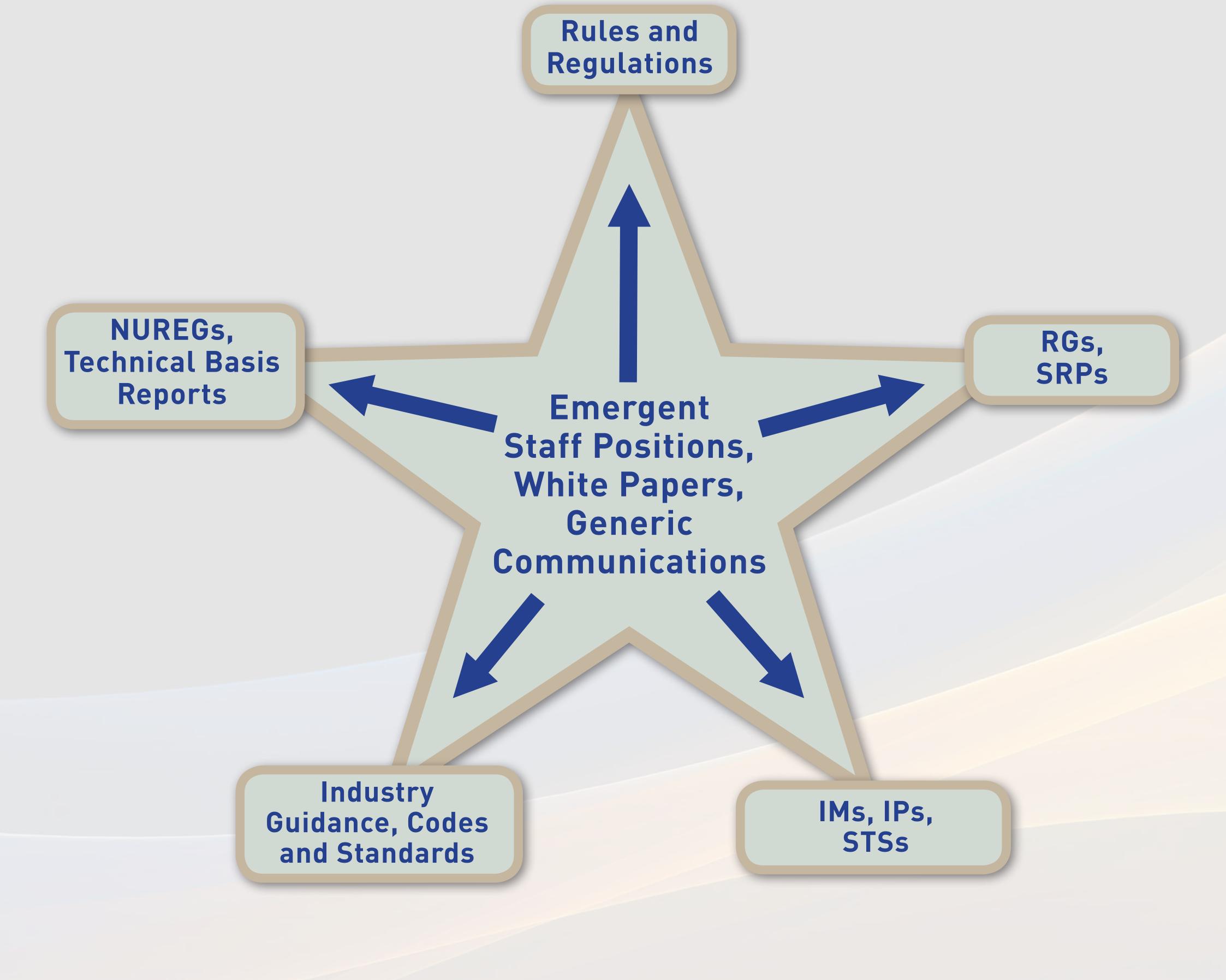
#### Inspection Manuals (IMs) and Procedures (IPs)

IMs and IPs are guidance for NRC inspection activities at vendor and licensee/applicant facilities to ensure that safety problems are identified and suitable corrective actions are developed and implemented. IMs and IPs are typically not published for public comment.

#### **Codes and Standards**

Industry develops various standards that are sometimes used by NRC. Consensus standards reflect input from a variety of public stakeholders, and are often incorporated by reference into NRC regulations or endorsed by NRC guidance documents, particularly Regulatory Guides. Codes and standards must be specifically endorsed in an NRC guidance document to be considered staff regulatory guidance.

### Transforming Emergent Staff Positions into Durable Guidance



## Guidance Hierarchy Pyramid

Atomic **Energy Act** 10 CFR Parts 1-199 Regulatory Guidance NUREGs, INs, Codes, BTPs, Standards

## Opportunities for Public Input

The NRC notifies the public of proposals for new and revised guidance through a Federal Register Notice (FRN). The FRN provides a docket number for each announcement. The docket number can facilitate a search on www.regulations.gov.

Public comments and supporting materials related to proposed rulemaking guidance can be found at http://www.regulations.gov, by searching on Docket ID. Follow the instructions in the FRN to comment. Use this link for other docketed items. http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/form.html

Use the following link for unsolicited RG comments and suggestions. http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/contactus.html

